



**BLACK GOLD
REGIONAL
DIVISION NO. 18**

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

May 25, 2016



CELEBRATING SUCCESS



Alberta Francophone Games

Black Gold Regional Division No. 18 (BGRD) continues to work with community partners to engage youth. On the evening of May 13th, approximately 450 students, teachers and parents from around the province gathered at École Secondaire Beaumont Composite High School (ESBCHS) to attend the opening ceremony for the Alberta Francophone Games. This exciting three day event hosted by the Town of Beaumont and BGRD saw francophone students between the ages of 12 and 17 participate in a variety of sports and activities within several of the BGRD Beaumont Schools. The games are hosted by different municipalities annually. BGRD would like to thank all the volunteers, staff and our community partners associated with this event.

Alberta Music Festival Association



Congratulations to the Ecole J.E. Lapointe School Choir with Director Val Baron and Leduc Composite High School Choir with Director Don Steenwinkel who have been recommended by the Alberta Music Festival Association (AMFA) to perform in the 2016 Alberta Provincial Choral Festival. The AMFA recognizes the hard work and dedication of both the teachers and students, and thanks BGRD for their dedication to youth and the arts.

Black Gold Student Leadership Symposium

Black Gold Regional Division No. 18 (BGRD) continues to engage youth through various Division wide opportunities. On April 22nd, a total of 270 students, teachers and parents attended a BGRD Student Leadership Symposium at Leduc Composite High School. This is the fourth BGRD initiated student leadership event to occur within the last four years. The purpose of this symposium was to expand student awareness and understanding of how they can make a positive personal impact within their school and community. At the conference, presentations focused on the key areas of comprehensive school health: the physical, mental and social well-being of peers as well as sessions regarding technology leadership.

Students had the opportunity to listen to keynote speakers:

Grade 7-12, Ryan Porter, focused on helping young people find their path to a successful future; and Grade 4-6, Tracy Lookwood, focused on PLAY education.



Also, the entire group had the opportunity to listen to Edmonton Oiler, Andrew Ference, speak about his get active initiative called the November Project. Students also attended age appropriate breakout sessions on a variety of topics related to this year's theme and discussed with their school peers, strategies on how they can expand leadership within their school environments.

BGRD would like to thank the organizing committee, volunteers, staff and our community partners for supporting this event. Community partners include: Community, Attachment and Purpose (CAP) Project, Leduc County and Second Glance Clothes Ltd. BGRD would also like to thank all student and teacher volunteers who helped make the day such a success.

The Division is proud to have creative and innovative staff and a forward thinking Board who encourage events such as this to support enhanced student learning.

Canadian Astronaut



École Coloniale Estates School was honoured to have a Skype Q&A session with Canadian Astronaut Jeremy Hansen who was in Houston, Texas. Teacher Mme. Green originated the opportunity and invited the entire school into the gym for the half hour event. Students who had submitted questions earlier were given the chance to talk to Jeremy directly and ask their questions. It was a fantastic event and Jeremy left the students with the message that the important thing to do in life to achieve your dreams is to set goals and work towards them. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Yanitski was also in attendance and listened as the school body and Jeremy sang Happy Birthday to him.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

City of Leduc Citizen of Distinction Award

Congratulations to Willow Park School who received one of the six City of Leduc Citizen of Distinction Awards. Five staff members and three students attended the banquet to receive the award and the students accepted the award. Mayor Krischke attended a school assembly on April 29th to publicly recognize all of the students for their efforts.

St. John Ambulance Council 2016 Provincial First Aid Competition

Leduc Composite High School was well represented with four teams participating at the St. John Ambulance Provincial First Aid Competition April 30th. LCHS club members competed against sixteen other teams from Alberta industries and other youth teams from Edson and Red Deer. The accident scenes were staged in West Edmonton Mall with high school actors from Tofield and St. Albert.

For Emergency First Aid, LCHS team "Code Blue" placed second. First place winners were from team "Trauma Trinity". The Team Leader individual award was won by Team Captain Carolyn Geiger.

In Standard First Aid, Team "Contagious Cure" was runner-up. The competition winners were the "Helping Phalanges" (yes that's fay-lan-gee, and it means fingers) who were also the highest overall scoring team. Congratulations students and thank you to Medical Services teacher, Jennifer Lasychuk!



VIMY RIDGE CONSULTATIONS

The safety of BGRD students and staff is the first priority for the Board of Education. In light of recent world events, the Board directed Administration to engage students, parents and chaperones to gather their feedback regarding the future of the Vimy Ridge Canadian Heritage Tour 2017. The Board always reserves the right to cancel/modify trips in the interest of student and staff safety. Upon receiving the important feedback, the results were presented to the Board.

Consultation meetings were set up in the various communities with opportunity to ask questions, and the options of cancelling or continuing the trip was explained. Trustees discussed the consultation meetings and final results. Trustees mentioned that the final decision lies with the parents, and if someone wants to withdraw from the trip, they are able to do so. Trustees also recognized the detailed work of staff who planned the trip. Trustees have expressed appreciation in all of the consultation meetings and hard work in preparing the results.



Motion defeated: that the Board cancel the Vimy Ridge Canadian Heritage Tour 2017 Trip.

Superintendent Yanitski stated that any fundraising for the Vimy Trip would follow students in a parallel trip, which is in the spirit for which the money was originally raised.

Motion carried: that the Board supports a parallel field trip in the spirit of the Vimy Ridge field trip to destinations in Canada, during Spring Break of 2017.

Trustee Koroll stated that this motion opens up the trip to other students as well. Trustees directed Administration to inform students, parents and staff of the options for the trips. Trustee Kobeluck thanked Trustees and Administration for the discussions and concerns for the trip. Associate Superintendent Romanchuk thanked the Board for the direction on the trip, and requested financial help for sub time to allow a staff member to work on an alternate trip.

2016-17 BUDGET

The Board approved the Budget Report to be submitted to Alberta Education for the year ending August 31, 2017 with the budget projecting \$124,057,778 in revenue, and \$125,551,273 in expenses for the 2016-2017 school year for a projected deficit of \$1,493,495 for Black Gold Regional Division No. 18. The budget highlights, plans and assumptions were presented along with significant business and financial risks. The Projected Schedule of Changes in Accumulated Operating Surplus (summary) was also presented.

Trustee Koroll commented that as the Division is opening new schools, the government does not provide full funding for new buildings, staffing and extra added costs. The Board should have discussions with the government to request extra funding for opening new schools.

Trustees thanked Associate Superintendent Andres, Finance Department, Administration and the Resource Allocation Committee (RAC) for the information brought forward. Superintendent Yanitski also expressed thanks and congratulated the Division staff as the budget will serve the students well in the next school year.



INSPIRING SUCCESS AWARD OF DISTINCTION



Superintendent Yanitski announced that the BGRD Board of Education believes in recognizing contributions of individuals or groups within Black Gold Regional Schools that "Inspire Success" of students and staff. The criteria and guidelines for the award are on the website. The deadline is June 13, 2016.

BLACK GOLD WELCOMES WILDFIRE EVACUEE STUDENTS

Superintendent Yanitski stated that he was very proud of students, staff and Administration for their work in supporting and welcoming evacuees from Fort McMurray. As of May 24th, there are 141 displaced Fort McMurray students registered in BGRD.

Welcome Fort McMurray Students!

FIELD TRIP REQUEST



The Board gave final approval to the field trip request from École Coloniale Estates School. The trip is to Banff National Park from June 21 to 24, 2016 for 34 Grade 8 students with five supervisors.

SCHOOL VISITS

Trustees and Superintendent Yanitski attended visits to the following schools: Warburg, Warburg Hutterite, Calmar Elementary and Calmar Secondary. School visits are an informative event that Trustees and the Superintendent look forward to attending.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Superintendent Yanitski stated that our focus is students, and the Youth Leadership Conference is an annual student activity which the students feel is super motivating and are able to take back new ideas to their schools. The conference was well attended with students from Grades 4–12. Division Principal Norm Dargis stated that the event was a success and students had fun. This year the event occurred on a Professional Development Day.



Superintendent Yanitski thanked Division Principal Norm Dargis and the Committee of staff and students for their hard work in organizing the event. The Committee consisted of Cheryl Hafso, Denise Harrison, SAM Boss-Bischoff, Erik Larson, Ray McCubbing, and Darren Maltais. Trustee Martinson thanked the Committee and the custodians.

ÉCOLE CHAMPS VALLÉE SCHOOL GROUNDBREAKING



Superintendent Yanitski announced that the Board is very pleased to host a groundbreaking ceremony on June 17, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. at the École Champs Vallée School site. In case of poor weather, the gymnasium at École Bellevue School will be used. The contractor for the École Champs Vallée School will be Johnston Builders Ltd.



DIVISION FEES



Associate Superintendent Andres presented the proposed Instructional Resource Fees and Transportation Fees for 2016-2017 with no increase. Trustee Martinson stated that due to economic times, it is important to not increase the fees. The Board approved the 2016-2017 Division Instructional Resource Fees and Transportation Fees as proposed with no increase.

ÉCOLE J.E. LAPOINTE SCHOOL ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANT

The Board awarded the contract for Architectural Services Consultant for the École J.E. Lapointe School major modernization and addition project to Group2 Architecture Interior Design.



BOARD PLANNING SESSION



Trustees and Administration held a Board Planning Session on May 11th and 12th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Nisku. Superintendent Yanitski stated that the discussions were very good, and the presentations from Student

Services and the VTRA team were excellent along with the update on the strategic plan. Trustees enjoyed the sessions and presentations.

LETTERS TO GOA



Trustee Misselbrook stated that if the Board has concerns or questions regarding the carbon tax levy or mental health support for schools, then the Board should be submitting letters to the government. The Board and Administration will draft a letter to the Education Ministry.



Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.